

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A bacteria growth carrier including a trace element characterized ~~that an element~~ wherein a polymer product obtained by including a trace element or the trace element and an inorganic nutrient salt for growth of bacteria in a synthetic or natural polymeric material is ~~laminated by being held with~~ held between layers of a synthetic or natural inorganic porous material.

2. **(Original)** The bacteria growth carrier as claimed in claim 1, which is a particulate, cylindrical or plate-like carrier.

3. **(Original)** The bacteria growth carrier as claimed in claim 1, which has a honeycomb structure.